

Hemlock U.S.A. is committing a minimum of \$250,000, its largest one-year contribution so far, to help Maine organize its fund-raising and get ballot signatures. Faye Girsh, national president, says Maine polls and population breakdowns are even more favorable than were those in Oregon, the first state to ratify.

She sees little danger of repeating the 2 to 1 licking administered to a Michigan proposition last year. That fight, she says, was pushed locally without adequate organization or funding.

Available money was pretty well used up getting ballot signatures. In the final weeks before the vote there were insufficient funds to counter the millions spent on media saturation bought by Right to Life forces.

Girsh spoke here at a Hemlock Hawaii meeting last month along with Derek Humphry, founder of Hemlock. Humphry traced the growing success of the movement from a California defeat in 1988 up to the 60-40 Oregon victory in 1997. He believes more than half of all states will legalize physician-assisted suicide and/or euthanasia on request by the year 2020.

Girsh and Humphry believe assisted-death forces can win in Maine even while being outspent by Right-to-Life and the Catholic Church foes, just as happened in two Oregon votes in 1994 and a re-ratification by a far bigger margin in 1997. Humphry reported continuing rear guard actions in Oregon. Twelve bills in its 1999 legislature would further restrict assisted suicide - even though only 15 of Oregon's 29,000 deaths were under the law last year.

In Congress, Rep. Henry Hyde, of impeachment fame, is a leading advocate for a bill forbidding the Food and Drug Administration to approve medications for assisted death, an unconscionable override of the U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous 1997 decision to leave choice in dying "to the laboratory of the states."

Girsh has an idea that conceivably could be used in Hawaii. This would be to reduce enabling legislation to a single sentence or paragraph. It would allow right-to-die help if carried out under accepted rules.

The Legislature would leave these rules to the Department of Health to adopt subject to approval by the Governor. This would transfer the long haggles over details from the limited 60-day legislative session to a forum able to operate without time limits.

Our 1999 Legislature, perhaps bloodied by the 1997-98 fights over same-sex marriage, had no wish to even look at the details of the assisted-death law proposed by Governor Cayetano's Blue Ribbon Panel on Living and Dying With Dignity, on which I served. Neither the Senate nor the House invited testimony from the chairman of the panel!

Committees in each house ran through the charade of listening for a few hours to anyone who wanted to speak, then shelved the bills at least until next year. Only a single senator listened most of the time.

Hawaii polls consistently show strong support for legalizing doctor-assisted death under strict controls. National polls show similar support.

Girsh speaks of the right to die as "the ultimate civil right."

A.A. Smyser is the Star-Bulletin's contributing editor. His column runs Tuesday and Thursday.

Editor's Note:

Mahalo to A.A. "Bud" Smyser and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin for permission to reprint the 4/15/99 Hawaii's World. Whatever your opinion, this article will keep you up to date on the right to die issue.

Medical School Hotline

JABSOM Celebration of Medical Education 1999

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The University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) has always maintained a strong commitment to research, service and education. In another demonstration of the latter, the School of Medicine recently completed a week of activities emphasizing various aspects of teaching/learning titled "JABSOM Celebration of Medical Education." Co-sponsored by the Hawaii Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the University of Hawaii Department of Medicine, and the Office of Medical Education, the week's activities included lectures, work-

shops, informal discussion and a first-ever medical education poster session.

The week was organized around the visiting professorships of two nationally and internationally-acclaimed medical educators: Dr. David Irby (Vice Dean of Education at the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine) and Dr. LuAnn Wilkerson (Senior Associate Dean of Education at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine). Together, they represented over 50 years of experience and accomplishment in the areas of faculty development, clinical teaching, problem-based learning and medical education research. Throughout the week, Drs. Irby and Wilkerson provided a series of workshops and plenary sessions on a spectrum of topics with titles ranging from "Ambulatory Teaching Lite: Less Time but More Fulfilling," "The One Minute Clinical Preceptor," "Exploring the Relationship Between PBL Tutor Behavior and Student Performance," "What Makes Small Group Learning Powerful," and "Preparation and Delivery of Dynamic Presentations." Dr. Irby also presented the 1999 Alpha Omega Alpha Lecture on "Distinguished Clinical Teachers of Medicine: What They Know, How They Reason, and What They Do." In addition to these sessions, Drs. Irby and Wilkerson met informally with interested faculty throughout the week to discuss areas of common interest.

One of the highlights of the week was JABSOM's first Medical Education Poster Session. Over 30 posters on medical education, patient education, and community programs were presented by faculty, fellows, residents and medical students, with representation from over twelve departments and offices within the medical school, several associated community programs, and three medical school classes. In addition to providing another opportunity for faculty, students and community partners of the medical school to write abstracts and design posters, participants as well as attendees learned of the wide variety of programs, studies and community service activities which are conducted by and take place within the medical school. Many of them are presented at national or local meetings but are not well publicized within the school.

One of the primary objectives of the week was to reach out and involve as many of our faculty, residents and students as possible. With this purpose in mind, sessions were held at various sites within the community. It is estimated that over 250 different faculty and over 100 fellows or resident physicians attended at least one of the sessions, and many attended multiple sessions throughout the week. Participants also included community physicians, medical students, social scientists, educational specialists, and others. While the focus was primarily for our local medical education community, the symposium also attracted visiting faculty from Sung Kyun Kwan University Medical School (Korea) and Tokyo Women's Medical College (Japan). Like JABSOM, both of these schools utilize problem-based learning as their primary educational paradigm which provided some exciting and engaging discussion and cross-fertilization of ideas throughout the week.

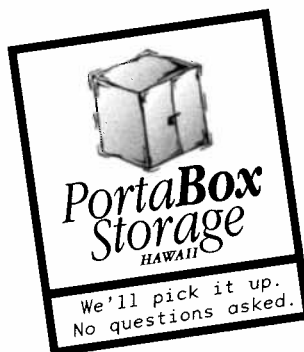
Feedback regarding the week's activities from the visiting professors, faculty, and students was extremely positive. Drs. Wilkerson and Irby were especially impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of all the participants, and planning already is underway for the next "Celebration."

The energy, commitment and participation of the faculty, learners and community partners in events such as the "JABSOM Celebration of Medical Education" are the ingredients which enhance the educational opportunities and experience provided at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. This never-ending dedication to improve as teachers and learners will continue in fulfilling the mission of the School of Medicine.

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